

*See Case*

105.485

ROBERT ERLING

Mr. Van Clief states that about September 15, 1922, he heard several men discussing the Hall-Mills case on the sidewalk in front of a store at French Street. Willard Staub was one of them. Staub was relating to the bystanders how Erling endeavored to induce him to say he was in DeRussey's Lane the night of September 14, 1922; that Erling had stated that, if he said that, he would get some money out of it. Erling's nickname is "Snappy". Van Clief asked him (Staub) if he thought Erling was in DeRussey's Lane that night. Staub replied, "He told me he was out there and drove through the lane, but that he did not see the Gibson woman there." (Report of G.T.P. 9/17/26) P.117)

Mrs. Waller informs investigator that, when she went to Somerville to be questioned, Erling was in the car with her and asked her to say that she saw the Gibson woman in DeRussey's Lane that night. She replied she would tell only the truth and that she did not see the Gibson woman or any other person in the lane that night. At Somerville she was questioned by Mr. Bergen and Captain Lamb. (Report of G.T.P., 9/22/26 - P.143)

S. Casey, owner of a saloon at Alexander and French Streets, states Erling is known as a "nut" in the vicinity of this saloon, that he is a drunkard and of no consequence, and that everybody about there thinks he is an "awful liar". (Report of G.T.P., 9/13/26. P.167)

Fred Frank, residing with Cornelius Van Clief, the former employer of Erling, worked with Erling at the time he was employed by Van Clief. Knows Erling to be a drunkard and has heard him say when under the influence of liquor that he was being paid to keep his mouth shut relative to the murder. (Report of D.T., 9/23/26. P. 171)

STATEMENT OF MRS. WALLER TO R. E. W. - She went riding with Erling in his car the evening of September 14, 1922. Left her home, near Hamilton Street in Somerset County, about 8.00 P.M. They drove along Hamilton Street to DeRussey's Lane, through the lane to Easton Avenue and along the avenue to Bound Brook, and returned by the same route at about midnight. They did not stop in the lane. She did not see Mrs. Gibson or any other person riding a mule. (Statement of R.E.W., 10/17/26 - P.553)

Staub in his affidavit made for the defense on Sept. 21, 1926, states that on August 12th, this year, he was approached by Trooper McManus and asked to go to Somerville to make a statement of his knowledge of any facts he might have bearing on the case. He denied having any information.